

The Ohio Democrat.

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TO A COMET.

"Sight unto night showeth knowledge,"
In what far realm of undimmed light,
Thou radiant wanderer of the upper deep,
Dielst thou loom, in long and ceaseless
flight,
Through spaces wide thy shining course
to keep?

When at Creation's morn each new-born
star
To their great Maker woke the blissful
song,
Was't thou then in the golden gates unbar,
And sent thee forth to sweep the heavenly
throne?

So vast the spaces where thy flight hath
been,
No mortal eye hath watched that flight be-
fore,
Thou shinnest but a moment, and again
Upon thy way art gone forevermore.

Beyond the verge whence the remotest sun
Back to our earth sheds his celestial ray,
Thou shalt pass as though but just be-
hind,
The journey to thy home so far away.

Fain would we know the secrets of thy path,
Of suns unknown, with systems round
them rolled,
And heavens all new, such as the prophet
hath
In coming ages for our earth foretold.

Art thou, indeed, the harbinger of war,
Of third empires, of a new celestial
realm,
Of a new world of the coming age,
With noise of battle and the clash of arms?

Not so we read, upon thy shining form,
The promise of peace, and of a new
day,
But rather of the voice that quells the storm,
And bids the raging seas in peace be still.

From scenes like these one lesson we would
learn,
Which all of God's glorious works unceasing
prove:
That works Divine, however those works ap-
pear,
Are wrought by Him alone whose name is
Love.

—J. A. Bassett, in Christian at Work.

THE YELLOW CAB.

Why Its Inmate Mistook Its Driver
for a Lunatic.

It was a close cab I hailed—a yellow
cab—and its number was 1,676. I re-
member the number distinctly, and I
will tell you how it happened that its
number and color have stuck like burrs
to my memory. When I got out of the
door of the Freemasons' tavern (on
the night of February 1, 1880), where
the dinner of the "Benevolent Super-
annuated Night-Porters' Association" had
been held, and called a close cab from
the stand, as the cabman got slowly
down from his box and opened the door
for me, with that natty twist and tug
peculiar to the craft, I looked inside
and saw that one of the cushions was
torn nearly in half and that the foot
mat was kicked up in a dirty heap in
one corner. Upon which, observing
the number of the cab to be 1,676, and
somewhat perturbed, I started by the
"Benevolent Night-Porters' Association."
I remarked good-naturedly that
"one might expect things to be at sixes
and sevens in cab 1,676." The cabman
grumbled something in return, but he
made no other answer.

"Vere to, sir?" said the cabman,
forcing his way with great deliberation
into its proper place, and then with all
his strength grinding down the rusty or
bruised handle.

"To 4 De Beauvoir terrace, Down-
town Green, Hannover-Smith."

"And how many miles do you make
it?" said the cabman, as he started
rudely through his rough face in at the
window, speaking with a sour, hard
voice.

I replied that I called it not quite five.
"Not much less," said the man bit-
terly, with a growl, as he put one foot
on the step to alight, and he coughed.
"And mind it to be fair, sir, after
twelve," he added, returning again to
carefully pull up both windows, and to
reopen and reseat the opposite door of
the cab. I did not like the vindictive
look he gave me as he did this; but I
said nothing, and he went on his number
and the wine made me reckless of all
dangers, but I did not know the motive
of all that ere then.

"Will you go on," I cried, "with
your ramshackle cab, or I'll take an
other one—a better one."

"Vere to, go on for a moment presently,"
growled the ill-conditioned fellow, with
a peculiar emphasis, as he jumped up
on his seat. The horse spluttered about
for a moment on the stones, struck out
a spark or two with his hoofs, and then
sprang forward. The waterman flung
down his bucket, took off his hat
boonily, and with a flourish of his hand
behind us calling for a "cab, quick."

"Take care how you drive that there
gentleman," cried out a policeman, and
we were off. The lamps of Long Acre
passed us in quick procession, it seemed
but a minute, and we were in St. Martin's
lane. At the end of the lane, where the
wind blew across the road the half-past
twelve struck by the bell of St. Martin's
Church.

The driver, thinking of his over-fare,
turned, and tapping at the window
with a brutal leer, asked me if I heard
the clock at twelve. I said I had, and
he said, "I had taken strange dislike to
the man, and my only wish now was to
get as soon as possible to my own home,
and rid myself of a fellow probably half
intoxicated and evidently determined to
be extortionate and troublesome."

By this time the horse was in an insane
frenzy, now leaping in long, lashing lines,
that beat fiercely against the cab windows,
covering them with a moving surface of
water, that rendered it impossible for
one to see out of either glass. The wind,
too, beat against the cab and howling
before us like a storm. Still we
drove on fast and steadily up Regent
street, where now nothing could be seen
but a stray policeman cowering up in a
doorway.

Through a pleasant haze the past
hours seemed again to dle before me.
I went through the moonlight in an instant
the time the man at the door gave me
the ticket for my hat to the time that I
gave it back again to the same man and
told the waiter to call me a cab from the
nearest stand. I remembered all the
bows and hand-shakings of the commit-
tee-room, and how the man in an iron
body, we moved into the dining-hall,
marshaled by the jolly looking, portly
steward, with blue rosettes at his ear
and Lord Footpiddle, our noble chairman,
arrived and took his seat. I remem-
bered, too, with a smile, the bustling
out of the first waiter, the dropping of
the professional singers just as the
dessert was set upon the table. Then
came the procession round the table of
the "Superannuated Night-Porters"
and the tremendous auctioneer's blow
of the toastmaster's hammer, that blew
the first and last of the evening's
near the speeches, the insincere compli-
ments, the ridiculous praise, and the
extravagant self-laudation on the mu-
tual-flattery system. Again, through a

dia of tongues and a clatter of
plates, I heard the treasurer read those
Crescent-edged, such as—
"Twenty pounds from Lord Foot-
piddle." [Cheers.]
"Ten pounds from the Marquis of
Cheshire." [Renewed cheers.]

Again, too, for the twentieth time, I
heard the treasurer thank the
secretary, and the secretary thank
the treasurer, and then, at last,
not a little flustered, I rose myself to
propose "The Ladies," who smiled up
on us in the gallery—all the time
thinking only of pretty little Nelly
Pledgett, my doctor's daughter, whom
I saw beaming and radiant in a front
seat. I got quite eloquent on the subject
of female beauty, and said down
amid tremendous applause. I was re-
plied to by the good doctor, who, thank-
ing the meeting on behalf of the
ladies, begged to propose the health of
one of the best friends of the society—
"Nelly Pledgett, daughter of Dr. Osbert
Wilkinson, Esq." [Cheers.]

But suddenly, through all these motley
recollections, there flashed a painful
thought—a suspicious apprehension of
I scarcely knew what coming evil. It
seemed, when I think of it now, almost
like a presentiment of what shortly after
happened. I remember that, as I sat
down, somewhat heated by my speech,
and was pouring myself out a glass
of that excellent sherry to wind up
with, my old friend the doctor—who,
by the way, sat opposite me at dinner
leaped across the table and gave me
a peculiarly keen and searching look
from under those thick gray eyebrows
of his.

"What does that detective's look of
yours mean, doctor?" said I, pleasantly
enough.

"It means that you must take care of
yourself," said he in a grave voice, and
no more passed between us, at that
moment I rose to leave, having some
business that would call me up early in
the morning. He followed me out,
though, and when we shook hands in
the doorway I am not sure that he did
not hold his stop-watch in one hand and
his pulse with the other, but I was so
busy helping Nelly on with her scarlet
opera cloak that I did not pay much at-
tention to the nervous old fellow, who,
between ourselves, I think is rather get-
ting past work; he worries one so with
warnings and mysterious threats, as if
I would in a moment lose my health, and
my life insurance just advantageously set-
tled. Dear Nelly! what an anxious
look she gave me as I stepped into my
cab! I was sure that girl loved me.

All this evening I had been haunted
with anxieties about that troublesome
chance of mine. "Nelly," I had said
versus "Widgit," the notion and de-
lays of which had nearly driven me mad.
I had really felt quite giddy over it that
very morning, and began to get alarmed
about overwork my brain, as my
doctor faved me with doing. I could
not get the thought of it, even now, out
of my mind, and I was growing ap-
prehension overpowered it.

It was here that, for the first time, I
began somehow or other to have some
vague apprehension of the sanity or
honesty of my driver. Then came
thoroughly into my brain stories I had
heard, of a cabman at a corner, and
dangerous gang of thieves who drove
for their accomplices many of the drivers
of the night fiasses. These fellows
drove whatever passengers they could
procure into obscure streets, and there
robbed and sometimes murdered them.
Was it not a cabman, I had heard, who
and I was, what hope had I, alone
and unarmed, to escape, at such an
hour, too, and on such a night?

"Now was the time to resist, however,
before it was too late. My resolution
was prompt. I struck at the window
as loudly as I could, shouting, breaking
the glass, I kicked at the handle of the
door. I shouted, suddenly, with a tremen-
dous jolt on the curb, the cab stopped.
As the door opened I cried: "Let me
out, you rascal! I'll not be robbed!" I
stepped forward to get out, but was met
by a fierce blow on the chest from the
cushion, whose eyes now literally glared
with rage.

"That's enough of your mad tricks,
Bedlam Billy," he said, as he thrust me
back violently into the cab; "you want a
straight vesting, you do, and you shall
have one!" then, slamming the door
with a wrench that showed extraordinary
strength, he leaped on the box and
drove away again with a fury that sent
me reeling into a corner of the seat.

Hitherto I had dreamed only of rob-
bery; now I was sure that the man who
drove me was mad—staring mad. He
was going to drive me into some
river, or down some pit, or in some way
or other to hurt himself and me to
death. There he was, now, standing
up to drive, leaning for-
ward to lash on the eager horse, that,
frothing with pain, leaped up at every
blow of the man's whip. I do not know
why I did not instantly break both
front windows and pull the man off the
box, or force open the door and throw
myself out, or, breaking all the glass,
shout to every one through the openings
that the man who was driving me had
gone mad.

On we flew, on—the horse leaping
and plunging as if it would have broken
from the harness. We dashed down
the street, and I saw the houses race
past us; we tore down lanes where
houses were yet but few, except at the
beginning. Now the wheels grazed
against a post, and now against a gar-
den wall; but still the madman who
drove me seemed somehow or other to
struggle through the darkness and drive
on more frantically than before. Once
we dashed through a turnpike. Some
voices screamed after us and my driver
screamed to them in return, but what
they said, or what he said I could not
distinguish. What could I do? What
was I to threaten a maniac with
violence, with blows of the fist—a
man who perhaps imagined himself
hunted by devils or escaping from
his would-be murderers? His crazy
suspicions had already, doubtless, asso-
ciated me with some old persecutor or
supernatural enemy of his. How could
I reason with him—how could I soothe
such fears? Would he not leap at me
at my throat like a wildcat and tear my
very life out?

We were now racing up a long side
street, where in the distance to my hor-
ror I could just discern through the pale
light of the first daybreak a yawning
black dog, and a crowd of pale, ghastly
faces. There was no railing on the
one side, and the road was more deep-
rutted lane, without limit or boundary.
I saw at once that our fate was in-
evitable; it came ere I could in any
manner extricate myself from the ve-
hicle. The horse near the wheel place
gave a plunge and reared, then dropped
spite of the reined-in lashing of the
frantic driver—yes, fell, dragging the
carriage with it into what seemed to me
in that imperfect light and in that whir-
l of my senses a chasm of darkness, a
bottom of which crouched hideous
black dogs, and a crowd of pale, ghastly
faces. There was a crash, a cry, and I fell stunned.

I know not how long I lay insensible;
but when I recovered it was daybreak,
a faint red light was stripping the east-

ern sky, and I could see surrounding
obscure, though in a dim, uncertain
way, I was lying on the ground, fallen
coach and its dead horse; the driver I
could nowhere see. My first impulse
was to rouse myself, to get on my legs,
and discover where I was hurt, or if
any bone was broken. To my great
delight I found myself whole and sound,
with the exception of a slight sprain in
my right foot—at least so I thought at
first; but as I put down my hand to
touch my injured foot a heavy, red-
clotted drop of blood fell upon it. I
lifted my hand to my forehead, and
found there a deep cut, from which the
blood was oozing freely. I raised my
head, and with a sickening shock I dis-
covered my handkerchief and found it
tightly round the wound, so as, if pos-
sible, to staunch the blood till I could
get assistance. But where was I, and
where was the driver? "Thank God," I
cried aloud, "that I am at last rid of
that mad cabman and his mad horse! I
soon found it impossible to be without
her."

I soon recovered, thanks to my kind
doctor, but, alas! having before lost my
senses, I now lost my heart. I spent
my long days of convalescence in wan-
dering in the garden with Nelly, in prac-
ticing duets, and reading Tennyson. I
soon found it impossible to be without
her.

Tomorrow week Nelly Pledgett, I am
proud to say, happy to say, became Mrs.
Osbert Wilkinson, thanks to my imagi-
nary mad cabman and the yellow cab
No. 1,676. —Chicago News.

PRETTY TOILETTES.

Some Very Neat and Fashionable Con-
trivances for Home and the Street.

No prettier dress can be seen for
home wear than one of a grayish blue
material, embroidered in small odd de-
signs in Oriental colors, combined with
plain fabric in the ground color and
pink for undr-kirt, also shaded to
match. This lower skirt is made long
enough to escape touching the ground;
it is rounded at the bottom with a deep
flounce put on round the skirt. A long
tall, plaited in the same fashion, with
the heading of this flounce, and over
this is a short drape of the broadest
material, which is pulled over the front
and lengthened into a drape puff at
the back. The close-fitting bodice of
blue-gray material, with a deep
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